



Sunday, January 12, 2025, 10:50 am

First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco





Order of Service
Sunday January 12, 2025
10:50 AM - 12:15 PM

Livestreamed at bit.ly/uusfmedia

New to UUSF? Complete Our Connections form at <https://bit.ly/uuconnections2024>

A Guide for Newcomers - What to Expect During Worship (read at <https://bit.ly/newcomersguide-uusf>)

Welcome to Worship!

UUSF no longer requires masks indoors on our premises,
following the lead of the San Francisco Department of Health.

We do, however, strongly recommend people to wear masks
or do anything else that protects and respects their own health and comfort.
There is a designated mask-only area on the far right side of the Sanctuary.

Stay Engaged: Explore Our Busy Hand Activity Station

Did you know we have a busy hand activity station at the back of the sanctuary for all ages?

You can find fidget toys, coloring, and so much more.

Check it out if you need something to keep your hands busy during the service.

Please return items before you leave the sanctuary.

Prelude *Two Settings on How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*
 Morning Has Broken

Bach/Van Hulse
Keith Chapman/Dale Wood
Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Opening Words and Welcome

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

We light this chalice for the light of truth,
 the warmth of love,
 and the fire of commitment.
 We light this symbol of our faith
 as we gather together.

Greeting One Another

Music *Nature Boy*Eden Ahbez
Shannon Warty, soloistTime for All Ages "The Broken Story Story"
by Rev. Christina Leone-Tracy

Rev. Laura Shennum

*Unison Covenant

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its prayer.
 This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace,
 to seek the truth in freedom, and to help one another.

*Doxology

TALLIS' CANON



From all that dwell be - low the skies; let songs of hope and
 De to - dos ba - jo el gran sol; sur - ja, es - pe - ran - za

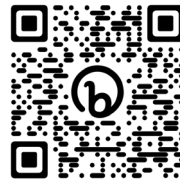
5
 faith a - rise; Let peace, good - will on earth be sung through
 fé, a - mor; ver - dad, y be - lle - za can - tan - do, de

8
 ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue.
 ca - da tie - rra, ca - da voz. A - men.

Reflection

Sam King

This morning's offering will benefit the work and ministries of the **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest at Your Table Program**, the longest-running fundraising and educational program for congregations. Many members of our congregation and UU congregations across the country kept Guest at Your Table boxes on their dining tables or other family gathering spots from Thanksgiving to New Years. We "fed" these boxes with donations on a daily basis to support the work of UUSC, our UU human rights and social justice organization. Please visit <https://bit.ly/GUESTUUSC> or stop by the UUSC information table after the service to learn more about the UUSC's work. If you want to join our local UUSC activists, contact **Linda Harris** at uusf@uusf.org. To make a donation on Vanco (bit.ly/uusfpayments), using the Donate Button on our website, or by scanning the QR code, please select the line for Special Sunday Offering. The designation is important to ensure your gift gets applied correctly. If you are sending a check, please mark in the memo today's date, **01-12-25**.



Offertory Music *We Are*

Ysaye M. Barnwell
Shannon Warto, soloist

Meditation

Rev. Laura Shennum

In Words

In Silence...

*During this time if you have lost someone close to you in the past year,
we invite you to stand or raise your hand in silent witness.*

In Music - Sing this part of hymn 1051 (Shannon will lead singing it).

We are our grandmothers' prayers
and we are our grandfathers' dreamings,
we are the breath of our ancestors,
we are the spirit of God.

Reading "This is the Moment of Visionary Narratives"
by Adrienne Maree Brown

Sam King

Music *Mission Statement*

Shannon Warto
Shannon Warto, soloist

Sermon "Build Strength Through Our Stories"

Rev. Laura Shennum

*Hymn No. 1051

We Are

Ysaye M. Barnwell

Shannon Warto, songleader; Reiko Oda Lane, organist

[\(CLICK HERE OR TURN TO PAGES 6 - 9 TO VIEW HYMN\)](#)

Invitations

Liz Strand, Trustee

*Benediction & Extinguishing of the Chalice

Rev. Laura Shennum

Postlude

Hymn to Joy

Theme from Beethoven's Symphony

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

*Please rise in body or spirit.

PARTICIPANTS

Worship Leaders

Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister of Congregational Life

Sam King, Worship Associate

Liz Strand, Trustee

Linda Harris; UUSC

Sunday Support

Eric Shackelford; Shulee Ong; Eli Boshears, Camera Operators

Jonathan Silk, Communications Director

Thomas Brown, Matias Pineda Salazar, Francisco Castellanos, Sextons

Carrie Steere-Salazar, Flowers

Linda Messner, Head Usher

Musicians

Reiko Oda Lane, organist

Shannon Warto, soloist

ABOUT

Shannon Warto has been singing on the Monterey Peninsula, throughout the central coast, and in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 20 years. Although her main focus has been on traditional Celtic music, she also loves to sing jazz, folk, country, pop, bluegrass, and, more recently, EDM (electronic dance music). In 2006 Shannon co-produced her first album under her former name, Shannon Miller, with the band Sweetfire. This album features traditional Irish music, a collaboration with Laurel Thomsen, violinist, and Amy Krupski, harper. In 2022, Shannon co-produced "A Moment With Bob," her first jazz album with jazz pianist Bob Phillips. These albums can be found on CDbaby as well as all music streaming platforms. Additionally, Shannon has written her own material and released her lullaby "Oh Hurley" in 2019, which accompanies her children's book Hurley the Hippo, published in 2017. Shannon is delighted to be a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco. You can learn more about Shannon at her website, shannonwarto.com.

♩ = 56

* Em

For each child that's born, a morn-ing star ri - ses and

sings to the u - ni-verse who_ we are. For who_ we are.

We are_ our grand-moth-ers' prayers and we_ are our

**Note: Repeat this 4 measure chord pattern throughout the piece.*

⊕ Words & music: Ysaye M. Barnwell, 1946 - , © 1991 Barnwell's Notes Publishing (BMI).
Used by permission.

grand - fa - thers' dream - ings, we _____ are the

breath of our an - ces - tors, we _____ are the spir - it of God. We are

moth - ers of cour - age and fa - thers of time, we are

daugh - ters of dust and the sons of great vi - sions, we're

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'grand - fa - thers' dream - ings, we _____ are the', 'breath of our an - ces - tors, we _____ are the spir - it of God. We are', 'moth - ers of cour - age and fa - thers of time, we are', and 'daugh - ters of dust and the sons of great vi - sions, we're'. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand, often using chords and moving lines.

sis-ters of mer-cy and broth-ers of love, we are

lov-ers of life and the build-ers of na-tions, we're seek-ers of truth and

keep-ers of faith, we are mak-ers of peace and the wis-dom of a - ges.

We are___ our grand-moth-ers' prayers and we___ are our

grand - fa - thers' dream - ings, we _____ are the

breath of our an - ces - tors, we _____ are the spir - it of God. For

each child that's born, a morn - ing star ri - ses and

sings to the u - ni - verse who _____ we are. For who _____ we are.

Soul Matters

January: Story

Story is our theme for January. We human beings are so many things: tool makers (though not the only tool-making species); language users (though not the only species to communicate in sounds); and also one of the only story-telling species we know—at least so far. Stories are how we make sense of the world. They can tell the hero's journey, teach moral lessons, make us laugh, hold a mirror up to some piece of our world so we can see it clearly, and even show us the shadow side of the human spirit. History is just journalism, Joseph Campbell once said, and not very reliable. “Myth is much more important and true than history.” Myth and story, at their best, capture something deep and powerful, ground us in a narrative, and invite us to throw our life up against or through that narrative. Nothing is more powerful than learning to tell a story about the world that makes sense, a new story to lead the world forward to a new way of being. Come reflect with us on story and what stories are most important to you. <https://www.uusf.org/soulmatters>

Tales We Tell Ourselves by Robert Lavett Smith

In January, when the wind is shrill,
We contemplate its sad soliloquies.
As bitter weather bends us to its will,
Street trees embroider doubtful histories.
The spirit of the season faced both ways,
The future as uncertain as the past—
Both faces, so prevailing wisdom says,
Composing chronicles that will not last.
We shelter in the tales we tell ourselves,
Truths deeply rooted in the loam of time;
Our sense of narrative, if nothing else,
Inclines our common lives to the sublime.
And even if we never write a word,
Our stories rescue us from the absurd.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

If you're new, please familiarize yourself with the guidance and support available on Sundays below. If you have any questions, an usher, greeter, or member of staff will be happy to help.

COVID-19: UUSF no longer requires masks indoors on our premises, following the lead of the San Francisco Department of Health. We do, however, encourage people to wear masks or do anything else that protects and respects their own health and comfort. There is a designated mask-only area on the far right side of the Sanctuary. If you feel unwell, please stay home and enjoy the service at home via livestream. (bit.ly/uusfmedia)

BUSY HANDS: Explore our Busy Hands activity station located at the back of the sanctuary. You will find things like fidget toys and coloring for all ages to help you keep your hands busy during service. Please return items before leaving the sanctuary.

Pets: If you came with your pet, there is a pet-friendly section on the furthest section on the left toward the front of the sanctuary.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICE: We can provide hearing assistance devices for the service. These are with the ushers in the back of the sanctuary, who will help you get oriented and comfortable with one.

CANDLES: In Unitarian Universalism we light candles to recognize sacred time, honor loved ones, mark important life events, and more. If you have something on your mind for which you'd like to light a candle, you are invited to come forward and light one silently during service.

SOCIAL HOUR: Everyone is welcome and invited to join us at social hour after service. This is normally in the courtyard (when weather permits) or in our Thomas Starr King room at the end of the hallway outside of the sanctuary. Help yourself to beverages and snacks!

Welcome to UUSF: Connect and Discover

NEW TO UUSF? Complete a Connections form to receive our newsletter, which includes a link to the Order of Service and Sunday Livestream. If you're at UUSF in person, you can find a yellow connections card at the welcome table in the gallery outside the sanctuary or in a pew in front of you. You can also fill it out online at <https://bit.ly/uuconnections2024>.

A GUIDE FOR NEWCOMERS: What to Expect During Worship (read at <https://bit.ly/newcomersguide-uusf>)

TODAY!

Exploring The Fillmore's Deep History with Immersive Stories with Michael Epstein

Sunday Forum, January 12, 9:30 am, TSK Room/Zoom. A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The Fillmore District in San Francisco has a rich yet painful history of exclusion. Journalist Michael Epstein has developed innovative projects over the past six years, including "The Fillmore Eclipse," which explores the decline of the 1950s Bebop scene, and "The Museum of the Hidden City," an award-winning audio and augmented reality experience addressing community responses to redevelopment. **Zoom:** <https://t.ly/20250112UUForum>

A Cape Town Banquet Experience - Women's Rights Group Fundraiser - Sign up after church!

Join us for a Cape Town Banquet Experience fundraiser hosted by a Women's Rights Group on Saturday, June 18, at 6:30 pm, featuring dishes inspired by Lori Lai's visit to The Africa Cafe in Cape Town. The menu includes a variety of African-inspired dishes such as vegan Imfino patties, Nigerian kababs, and Egyptian Koshery, along with fried rice balls filled with shrimp. Options will cater to various dietary preferences, including vegan and gluten-free choices. To bid for one of eight dinner slots, sign up with your name, contact details, and bid amount on the sheet available before or after the Sunday service in the gallery, with bids starting at \$50 per person.

Spread Love: Join Our Card Ministry After Service

Plan to stop by the card ministry table after the service. You will have a chance to write a card to those in our community who have experienced illness or loss, as well as a chance to thank those who are serving our community. Cards, notes, stickers, and postage are all furnished.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

Creating Theology Together, Part 2 - The event will be held on Thursdays until January 30, 6-8 pm in the Chapel

Part 2 of this series explores how external systems influence our theology and how our beliefs guide our actions. This class is a fresh approach to "Building Your Own Theology." For details, contact Rev. Laura at lsHENNUM@uusf.org. It's in-person only, and no prior participation is needed. Register at <https://t.ly/Theology2>.

Sensible Cinema will be showing the film, Separated on Friday, January 17, at 6:30 pm, Zoom

Instead of screening a film about Dr. King in January, we will focus on a timely film addressing the dangerous mass deportation policy being enacted by the new presidential administration. We will honor Dr. King's legacy by incorporating his message of unity and compassion, as he advocated for tearing down walls rather than building them. The film "Separated," directed by Errol Morris, exposes the harsh realities of family separation in the context of current immigration policies, highlighting the inhumane consequences of these actions. More info can be found at <https://www.uusf.org/cinema>

Unpacking Racism: Join Us for a Powerful Workshop and Discussion.

Saturday, January 18, at 10:00 am, TSK Room & Zoom - More info at <https://uusf.org/#bipoc>

Join us on Saturday, January 18, at 10:00 AM for a mini workshop presented by UUSF BIPOC. The event will feature a screening of "Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America," followed by a discussion and lunch with guest facilitator Milton Reynolds. Register for the luncheon by January 16 at <https://t.ly/0118BIPOCLUNCH> or scan the QR code.



What the New Administration Can and Can't Do to Immigrants with David Bacon

Sunday Forum, January 19, 9:30 am, TSK Room and on Zoom. A light breakfast will be available beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The upcoming talk will examine the threats posed by Donald J. Trump during his 2023 presidential campaign, the anticipated actions of the new administration, and the historical and current resistance efforts within communities. David Bacon, a seasoned journalist, photographer, and former union organizer, will lead the discussion. He has authored multiple books, including "Illegal People," "The Right to Stay Home," and "More Than a Wall/Mas que un Muro." More info at <https://www.uusf.org/forum>

End of Life Series: Wills & Trusts - Sunday, January 19, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, TSK Room

Join Julia Wald & Ben Gale as they discuss the importance of creating and updating wills and trusts. They will share their experiences and help you determine your next steps. If you have questions, contact Rev. Laura at lsHENNUM@uusf.org. Refreshments will be offered. Register at <https://t.ly/PUo0C>.

Welcome to the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

415-776-4580 / info@uusf.org

OUR SOCIETY'S VISION

We, The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, delight in our authentic, inclusive congregation that reaches across generations, ethnicities, and differences. We take care of one another, building spiritual community, knowing that we are stronger and accomplish more together. Guided by our responsibility to future generations, we take leadership in shaping a compassionate, sustainable world. Inspired by our courageous heritage and compelled by conscience, we hold one another accountable to work for racial, environmental, and economic justice and the dignity and rights of all.

OUR SOCIETY'S MISSION

As a vibrant, joyous, caring, inclusive community of diverse people, we create a nurturing space for spiritual growth and learning. Based on our shared values, we work together courageously and publicly for human rights, economic justice, and environmental salvation.

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT (under construction)

In an effort to make the world a better place, we support each other's journey to seek truth with openness, curiosity and respect for different perspectives and paths.

As love is our spirit, we commit to respect, accept, listen to and support each other.

We hold ourselves and each other accountable by continually assessing our individual and community actions toward living into our covenant. This will include speaking up when someone's actions are not aligned.

We commit to be in community with openness and loving kindness, acknowledging our own biases and differing perspectives.

We welcome the newcomer, we commit to building trust with each other, we celebrate differences and make space for repair when harm occurs.

UUSF MEDIA

View our videos <http://www.youtube.com/c/UUSFMedia>

Check out our Podcasts <https://www.uusf.org/worship-archives>

Go to our website at <https://www.uusf.org/>

WATCH LAST WEEKS SERVICE: <https://bit.ly/UUSFServices>

"The Stories We Tell"
Sunday, January 5, 10:50 am, 2025



Scan the QR code ↑ to
visit our UUSF Media
YouTube channel and
view upcoming and
previously recorded
services.